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RFC



MATCHDAY PROGRAMME — £1



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BOLTON WANDERERS

Saturday, 23rd February, 1991
Kick-off 3.00pm



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Volume 45, No. 17



IAN PORTERFIELD WRITES . . .

The loss of Michael Gilkes with that broken leg took the gloss off what was a tremendous result for the team at leaders Southend on Tuesday.

Michael suffered a break of the right fibula in a tackle half way through the second half and will be out for several weeks. It is a real blow because he has been in superb form recently and was showing some real consistency. The only good thing about the injury is that it is a clean break which could help him make a quick recovery.

At the time of writing we were hoping to make a loan signing to cover for Michael while he is on the sidelines.

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Michael's injury apart, we were all obviously delighted with the result at Southend, who have shown for most of the season that they are the best team in the Division. We showed great character to come from behind and Steve Moran's finish for the equaliser was sheer brilliance.

It was also great to see Danny Bailey get on the mark for the first time and all in all it was a highly satisfactory evening's work after the long lay-off because of the weather.

The postponement of matches means we are going to be playing twice a week until the end of the season which is going to place great demands on the squad.

But we have now won six out of seven League matches which is certainly the sort of form we must maintain if we are to keep in the promotion hunt. We are showing great confidence and a will to win at the present time which is going to pose problems for any side.

This afternoon we entertain Phil Neal's Bolton side who have been in great form themselves for the last couple of months. They have made a steady climb up the table and are very well-organised which means we may have to show a little patience this afternoon to get the right result.

We need to keep the run going to close the gap on the leaders, so get behind the team and let's hope we can take the three points.

ELM PARK

"OVER TO YOU JOHN"

The National Appeal for St John Ambulance

St. John Ambulance would like to thank Reading Football Club for all their support particularly with the 1991 "Over to You John" fund-raising and recruitment campaign.

Further information regarding St. John can be obtained from (0734) 442623.

A collection, on behalf of the appeal, will be taken at today's game with Bolton Wanderers.

COUNTRY AND WESTERN EVENING

Reading Football Supporters' Club are staging another Country and Western Evening.

The entertainment will be provided by Don Leather and Cindy, with the Brian Fuller Roadshow.

It will be held in the Royals Rendezvous, Tilehurst Road, Reading on Sunday, 3rd March, 1991 at 8.00pm. The cost is £4.00, with no refreshments included.

PROGRAMME FAIR

The Aldershot Programme Fair takes place tomorrow, February 24. It will be held in the Community Centre, The Elders Club, High Street, Aldershot (right opposite the football ground). Admission is between 11am and 2.30pm.

QUALITY/ROYALINE PLAYER OF THE MONTH



The Quality/Royaline Player of the Month for January was **MICHAEL GILKES**.

The presentation will be made to Michael before today's game.

The Player of the Month award is jointly sponsored by Quality Stationers & Printers and Royaline.

BARRY WANTS BADGES

Collector Barry White is hunting for an old Reading FC enamel lapel badge.

Barry, from Basingstoke, has a collection of 2,400 football club badges from around the country.

He is looking to buy an old Reading badge which shows a footballer in blue and white striped shirt and blue shorts on a gilt colour background.

The top of the badge is in blue enamel with the word Reading in gilt letters. The bottom is in white with the letters F.C. in gilt. On the reverse is the reference number 621379.

Barry is prepared to pay a "fair" price for the badge and can be contacted on Basingstoke 476790.

For Club Information call: ROYALINE 0839 66 44 33

Calls charged at 33p per minute — Cheap rate. 44p per minute at all other times including VAT.

ROUND-UP

LEWIS RETURNS TO ELM PARK

Former managing director Mike Lewis is set to return to the club after a three year absence.

Lewis has been spearheading a golf course development in Southern Spain, but is seen by chairman John Madejski as the man to revive the club's financial situation.

Lewis, formerly commercial manager at Spurs, was a key figure during Reading's rise from Division Four to the Second and Madejski says: "He is a superb salesman and knows football inside out.

"Hopefully Mike will be able to improve our situation off the field and help bring in the money we vitally need to progress."

Lewis has been linked with a consortium bidding to take over Fourth Division Cardiff City, but the chairman says: "As far as I am concerned Mike is our man." He takes up his appointment next month.

ANOTHER MONTH FOR MORROW

Reading have signed Arsenal full-back Stephen Morrow on a second month's loan.

The Northern Ireland international is needed as cover for Steve Richardson who is still sidelined by injury.

Due to the weather, Morrow has so far played only four games for Royals during his spell at Elm Park.

Ironically, last Saturday's reserve fixture at Highbury put him up against his own club.

MATCHBALL SPONSOR . . .



The matchball for our re-arranged League fixture with Wigan Athletic was sponsored by Nigel Cross Sports of Tilehurst and Woodley. Royals defender Steve Richardson (centre) presented an autographed football to Nigel (left) and Ron Cross of Nigel Cross Sports.

IT'S A FAIR COP . . .



Civilian driver and handyman Ted Bryant receives an autographed football to mark his retirement from the police. Chief Inspector Roy Bailey from Thames Valley Police and Reading FC financial executive David Lawton were on hand to make the presentation. We wish Ted, who is a loyal Royals supporter, a very happy retirement.

For Club Information call: ROYALINE 0839 66 44 33

Calls charged at 33p per minute — Cheap rate. 44p per minute at all other times including VAT.

ROYAL REPORT

READING 1, EXETER CITY 0

A goal from Craig Maskell a minute after half-time gave Royals the points and lifted them into eighth place in the table.

Maskell's header was deflected past keeper Kevin Miller by defender Richard Dryden, but match referee Ron Bigger was in no doubt that the goal was down to the Reading striker.

However the drama centred around the dismissal of three players in a 25 minute spell during the second half.

Maskell was the first to go for elbowing Dryden in the face and then John Brown followed him to the dressing room for his second bookable offence. Finally Dryden completed the "hat-trick" when he was dismissed for a classic "professional" foul on Michael Gilkes.

The result gave Royals their fourth victory on the trot and manager Ian Porterfield said: "We had to fight for it today and we got a couple of breaks which helped. It's vital we keep this run going."

Reading: Francis, Jones, Morrow, McPherson, Hicks, Bailey, Gooding, Smith (sub Lovell), Senior, Maskell, Gilkes. Sub: Leworthy.

Attendance: 5,123

Bookings: None

Reading Sending Off: Maskell

READING 3, WIGAN ATHLETIC 1

A double strike from Trevor Senior gave Royals their fifth successive League victory and pushed them into the promotion chase.

Royals never found their most fluent form, but took the lead after 33 minutes when Craig Maskell rose to head a perfect cross from Linden Jones for his third goal in successive games.

But six minutes after half-time Wigan deservedly drew level when a defensive slip allowed Darren Boughey to score from close range.

Eight minutes later Stuart Lovell carved the opening for Senior to open his account with an inch perfect cross, and the striker made no mistake as he swept home his 12th goal of the season.

Senior was on target again after 78 minutes with a towering header from Maskell's cross and that gave Royals the breathing space they needed.

Manager Ian Porterfield said: "It wasn't our best display in recent weeks, but the will to win was magnificent and that's what got us through."

Reading: Francis, Jones, Morrow, McPherson, Hicks, Bailey, Gooding, Lovell, Senior, Maskell, Gilkes. Subs: Leworthy, Friel.

Attendance: 3,416

Bookings: None

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SPOTLIGHT

on
RESERVES

OVENDEN PAPERS FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Wed.	Aug. 29	Swindon Town (2.00pm)	H ... L 0-5
Sat.	Sept. 1	Ipswich Town (3.00pm)	A ... D 0-0
Sat.	Sept. 8	Tottenham Hotspur (2.00pm)	H ... L 0-5
Fri.	Sept. 14	Norwich City (7.30pm)	A ... L 0-2
Tues.	Sept. 18	Queens Park Rangers (2.00pm) ...	A ... L 0-4
Sat.	Sept. 22	Oxford United (2.00pm)	H ... L 0-2
Wed.	Sept. 26	West Ham United (2.00pm)	H ... W 3-0
Mon.	Oct. 1	Millwall (2.00pm)	A ... L 0-3
Tues.	Oct. 9	Watford (7.00pm)	A ... W 3-1
Sat.	Oct. 13	Luton Town (3.00pm)	A ... L 0-3
Wed.	Oct. 17	Ipswich Town (2.00pm)	H ... D 1-1
Tues.	Oct. 23	Charlton Athletic (7.00pm)	A ... L 0-2
Wed.	Oct. 31	Southampton (2.00pm)	H ... W 4-0
Sat.	Nov. 3	Arsenal (3.00pm)	A ... L 0-1
Tues.	Nov. 6	Watford (2.00pm)	H ... L 0-2
Wed.	Nov. 14	Norwich City (2.00pm)	H ... D 2-2
Sat.	Nov. 17	Brighton (2.00pm)	H ... L 0-1
Wed.	Nov. 28	Wimbledon (2.00pm)	H ... L 0-3
Thur.	Dec. 6	West Ham United (7.00pm)	A ... L 0-3
Wed.	Dec. 12	Luton Town (2.00pm)	H ... L 1-3
Wed.	Dec. 19	Millwall (2.00pm)	H ... W 2-1
Mon.	Jan. 7	Wokingham Town (B/BSC)	A ... W 5-1
Wed.	Jan. 23	Crystal Palace (7.30pm)	A ... L 1-2
Sat.	Feb. 16	Arsenal (2.00pm)	H ... D 2-2
Tues.	Feb. 19	Marlow (B/BSC)	A ... L 1-3
Sat.	Feb. 23	Brighton & Hove A. (3.00pm)	A
Wed.	Feb. 27	Portsmouth (2.00pm)	H
Wed.	Mar. 6	Oxford United (7.30pm)	A
Mon.	Mar. 11	Queens Park Rangers (2.00pm) ..	H
Sat.	Mar. 16	Wimbledon (3.00pm)	A
Tues.	Mar. 19	Chelsea (2.00pm)	A
Sat.	Mar. 23	Southampton (3.00pm)	A
Wed.	Mar. 27	Crystal Palace (2.00pm)	H
Wed.	Apr. 3	Chelsea (2.00pm)	H
Wed.	Apr. 10	Fulham (2.00pm)	H
Sat.	Apr. 13	Portsmouth (2.00pm)	A
Sat.	Apr. 20	Tottenham Hotspur (2.00pm) ..	A
Wed.	May 8	Fulham (2.00pm)	A

To be arranged: Charlton Athletic (H), Swindon Town (A).

B/BSC — Berks & Bucks Senior Cup

ROYALS IN ADAMS' SPOTLIGHT

Royals found themselves at the centre of the national spotlight last weekend as they provided the opposition for Tony Adams' first game since his release from prison. More than 7,000 fans, and all the national press, were at Highbury to welcome back their skipper who was given a stern test by Reading strikers Trevor Senior and Steve Moran.

Both were on target early on as Reading took command, but the young Gunners came back strongly to earn a draw.

Moran said afterwards: "Tony looked lean and fit. It won't be long before he is back in the first team." Reading switched the game to Highbury because of the snowbound Elm Park pitch and manager Ian Porterfield said: "It was ideal for both clubs. Arsenal wanted to give Adams a game while it was a chance for our first team to dust off some of the cobwebs in a competitive game."

NO ADMISSION AT CHELSEA GAME

Reading's Ovenden Papers Football Combination fixture with Chelsea, to be played on Tuesday, 19th March, kick-off 2.00pm, at Stamford Bridge has some admission restrictions.

Unless you are either a Chelsea Club Member or a Season Ticket Holder you will not be allowed entry into the ground.

This is necessary otherwise Chelsea would face sizeable police charges.

For Club Information call: ROYALINE 0839 66 44 33

SPOTLIGHT

on YOUTH

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

1990

Sat.	Aug. 25	AFC Bournemouth	.....	H...	D 1-1
Sat.	Sept. 1	Crystal Palace	.....	H...	W 2-1
Sat.	Sept. 8	Bristol Rovers	.....	A...	L 2-4
Tues.	Sept. 11	Oxford United (SJFC.1)	.....	H...	L 0-3
Sat.	Sept. 15	Bristol City (League Cup 1)	.....	H...	L 1-4
Sat.	Sept. 22	Wimbledon	.....	H...	L 2-6
Sat.	Sept. 29	Tottenham Hotspur	.....	H...	W 1-0
Sat.	Oct. 6	Southampton	.....	A...	L 2-3
Sat.	Oct. 13	Bristol City	.....	A...	L 4-6
Sat.	Oct. 20	Swindon Town	.....	A...	D 0-0
Sat.	Oct. 27	Swindon Town	.....	H...	W 5-1
Sat.	Nov. 3	Brentford	.....	A...	L 0-5
Sat.	Nov. 10	Luton Town	.....	A...	D 1-1
Sat.	Nov. 17	Brighton & Hove Albion	.....	H...	W 1-0
Wed.	Nov. 21	Swansea City (FA Youth Cup 2)	.....	H...	D 1-1
Sat.	Nov. 24	Colchester United	.....	A...	D 0-0
Sat.	Dec. 1	Oxford United	.....	H...	D 2-2
Sat.	Dec. 8	Aldershot	.....	A...	D 3-3
Mon.	Dec. 10	Swansea City (FA Youth Cup 2-R)	.....	A...	L 1-2
Sat.	Dec. 22	Maidstone United	.....	H...	W 4-1

1991

Sat.	Jan. 12	Crystal Palace	.....	A...	L 1-2
Sat.	Jan. 19	Bristol Rovers	.....	H...	W 2-0
Sat.	Jan. 26	Wimbledon	.....	A...	L 1-5
Sat.	Feb. 2	Tottenham Hotspur	.....	A...	W 3-2
Sat.	Mar. 2	Brentford	.....	H...	
Sat.	Mar. 9	Luton Town	.....	H...	
Sat.	Mar. 23	Colchester United	.....	H...	
Sat.	Mar. 30	Oxford United	.....	A...	
Sat.	Apr. 6	Aldershot	.....	H...	
Sat.	Apr. 13	Maidstone United	.....	A...	
Sat.	Apr. 20	AFC Bournemouth	.....	A...	
Sat.	Apr. 27	Southampton	.....	H...	

To be arranged: Bristol City (H)

SJFC - Southern Junior Floodlit Cup

ALLIED COUNTIES LEAGUE WEST DIVISION 1990/91

Wed.	Sept. 5	Basingstoke Town	.....	Lost 2-5
Mon.	Sept. 17	Swindon Town	.....	Won 5-3
Wed.	Sept. 26	Newbury Town	.....	Won 11-2
Wed.	Oct. 3	Farnborough Town	.....	Won 4-3
Wed.	Oct. 10	Bracknell Town (League Cup 1)	.....	Won 5-0
Wed.	Oct. 17	Farnborough Town	.....	Drew 3-3
Wed.	Oct. 24	Newbury Town	.....	Won 5-1
Mon.	Oct. 29	Thatcham Town	.....	Won 4-1
Wed.	Nov. 14	Basingstoke Town	.....	Won 5-1
Mon.	Nov. 19	Hungerford Town	.....	Won 6-0
Wed.	Jan. 23	Thatcham Town	.....	Won 7-0
Tue.	Jan. 29	Farnborough Town (League Cup 2)	.....	Won 3-0

DUNCAN'S DOUBLE PUTS ROYALS THROUGH

READING YOUTH 3, FARNBOROUGH YOUTH 0

Reading's Allied Counties side grabbed the opportunity to show their paces on the Elm Park turf with this convincing victory over one of their fiercest rivals from the Allied Counties League. The two sides fought out a seven goal thriller earlier in the season which saw Reading triumph 4-3, but in this Allied Counties League Cup tie Reading were always in control.

Man-of-the-Match James Lambert put Reading in front and then striker Duncan Horner pounced twice to put the game out of the visitors reach. For many of the side it was their first experience of playing at Elm Park and manager John Alexander said: "They thoroughly enjoyed it and showed some good skill. It was nice to beat what is undoubtedly one of the strongest teams around at this level."

Reading Youth: Lockey, Minor, Emery, Bass, Liney, McGuigan, Horner, Gardner, Barkus, Lambert, Harvey (sub Mukabaa). Sub: Kent.

FEALEY DOUBLE SINKS SPURS

TOTTENHAM YOUTH 2, READING YOUTH 3

Two goals from Nathan Fealey helped Royals clinch their first South East Counties League double of the season.

Spurs went ahead midway through the first half, but Royals were back on level terms within 10 minutes when Brendan Rodgers fired home from 20 yards.

Spurs restored their lead shortly before the break from the penalty spot, but Royals took command after half-time.

Striker Andy Gray put them level on the hour and with 15 minutes to go, Fealey struck the winner from the edge of the box.

Manager Bobby Williams said: "It was a good performance and we deserved to win."

Reading Youth: Honey, Silvey, Liney, Mallins, Schonberger, Barkus, Fealey, Rodgers, Bass (sub Giamatei), Gray, Holzman. Sub: McGuigan (not used).

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MEET THE with STEPHEN GOODMAN

BOLTON WANDERERS VISITORS

BOLTON hope to break a club record at Elm Park today as they continue their surge towards promotion.

The Trotters are unbeaten in their last 20 League games — equalling their best-ever run set only last season. It's a sequence of results that's lifted them from next to bottom in October to third in the table.

And the sun's shone on Burnden Park in every respect this month — enabling Bolton to beat the freeze and stage four consecutive home games which have yielded eight more points. The clash with second-placed Grimsby last week attracted a 10,318 crowd, and the 0-0 draw kept them on course for that record.

Wanderers boast one of the Division's top scorers in Tony Philliskirk. The Sunderland-born striker took his season's tally to 20 against Huddersfield a fortnight ago. A bargain £50,000 buy from Preston two summers ago, Philliskirk punished his old club with both goals in the 2-1 derby win earlier this month.

Bolton have won the FA Cup four times, beating Manchester United on the last occasion in 1958. They stirred memories of a repeat with a fourth-round trip to Old Trafford in January, and 10,000 Trotters fans saw them come within 11 minutes of an upset before a Mark Hughes goal killed off their hopes.

In earlier rounds they'd seen off non-league outfits Witton Albion (2-1) and Barrow (1-0) either side of a thrilling 4-3 win at Chesterfield.

Phil Neal won the Third Division Manager of the Month award for November as his side turned in a 100 per cent record — the middle part of a sequence of nine straight wins. He has been Wanderers' boss for over five years, and has led them to a Sherpa Van Trophy win and promotion from the Fourth.

The former Liverpool and England right-back has brought an Anfield contingent to Burnden Park. He paid Manchester City £100,000 for ex-Reds defender Mark Seagraves, and signed midfielder Sammy Lee on a free transfer from Southampton. Lee formerly made nearly 200 League appearances for Liverpool.

Neal's other captures this term include Bolton old boy David Burke from Crystal Palace for £60,000, and midfielder Mark Patterson from Bury (£65,000).

Trotters met First Division Coventry City in the Rumbelows Cup, but despite four goals from Philliskirk they went out 7-4 on aggregate. Early-season defensive problems (they also lost 4-0 at Huddersfield and 4-2 at Brentford) have since been ironed out, and they now boast one of the Division's meanest rearguards.

Bolton were the first side this term to win at Grimsby, and they drew 1-1 at Southend. Their biggest win to date is 4-1 at home to Bournemouth.

The Lancashire club was in the First Division just 12 seasons ago, but slid all the way into the Fourth. But they almost completed two-thirds of their climb back last season, making the play-offs before losing to Notts County.

Defender Dean Crombie, who played four on-loan games for Royals in 1986, made over 100 League appearances for Bolton. He left the club last month to become assistant manager at Lincoln City. Meanwhile midfielder Robbie Savage has been forced to quit playing after complications set in when he broke a leg.

Wanderers beat us 3-1 at Burnden on November 10. Mick Gooding put us ahead, but the highly-rated Steve Thompson scored twice — one from the penalty spot — and David Reeves clinched matters two minutes from time.

Royals won the last meeting at Elm Park in March, 1990. Mick Tait scored with an amazing 40-yard chip, then Mick Gooding wrapped it up with another spectacular goal after the interval.

INTRODUCING . . .

BOLTON WANDERERS

DAVID FELGATE (*goalkeeper*): Born Blaenau Ffestiniog. Commenced his career with the Wanderers but failed to make a League appearance before being sold to Lincoln City for a £25,000 fee. Whilst at Sincil Bank he won his only Welsh international cap and in February 1987 returned to Bolton from Grimsby Town for £15,000.

KEVIN ROSE (*goalkeeper*): Born Evesham. Began with non-league Ledbury Town from where he moved to Lincoln City. He returned to non-league without having played for City, but his next move saw him make 268 League appearances for Hereford United. Came to Burnden Park for £20,000 in July, 1989.

PHIL BROWN (*full-back*): Born South Shields. Club captain who has been ever present in the side for the past two seasons since his £17,000 move from Halifax Town. He made 135 League appearances for the Yorkshire club after playing over 200 times for his first club, Hartlepools United.

PAUL HUGHES (*full-back*): Born Manchester. Came through the Wanderers youth policy to make his League debut during the Fourth Division promotion winning season of 1987/88. For the last two seasons he has been dogged with injury problems that has kept his appearances to a minimum.

BARRY COWDRILL (*full-back/midfield*): Born Birmingham. Began his League career with West Bromwich Albion who secured his services from Sutton Coldfield Town. He moved to Burnden two seasons ago after 131 games for Albion and was last season's Player of the Year.

DAVID BURKE (*full-back*): Born Winsford. In his second spell with Bolton, his first League club, after a £60,000 move from Crystal Palace during the close season. A former England youth international, he left Burnden in 1981 to join Huddersfield Town and made over 200 appearances for them before moving to Selhurst Park in 1987.

MARK WINSTANLEY (*defender*): Born St. Helens. A 'home grown' player who made his debut in 1986. Became a regular in the side two years later and has now over 100 appearances to his credit. His consistent performances have been a feature that have attracted the attention of some First Division clubs.

TONY PHILLISKIRK (*forward*): Born Sunderland. Last season's leading goalscorer after his close season £50,000 move to Burnden from Preston North End. Began his career with Sheffield United, making 80 appearances, before moving to Oldham Athletic in July 1988, where he spent only seven months.

MIKE JEFFREY (*forward*): Born Liverpool. Made his debut as a 17-year-old in March 1989, but failed to hold down a regular spot in the side. Was last season's leading scorer in the reserves.

IAN STEVENS (*forward*): Born Malta. Spent the summer playing in Finland, but has still to force his way into the team after joining the club in 1987. Began his career at Preston before spending a short time with Stockport County.

MARK CAME (*defender*): Born Exeter. Joined the Wanderers from non-league Winsford United in 1984. Became a regular twelve months later, but a broken leg in 1988 kept him out of the game for a long period. Forced his way back into the team last season and popped up with some important goals in the marathon Cup tie against Swindon Town.

JULIAN DARBY (*midfield*): Born Bolton. A product of the club's youth policy who has proved to be a versatile member of the squad since making his debut in 1986. Over 150 appearances for his home town club and was an ever present last term, in which he scored 12 goals.

STEVE THOMPSON (*midfield*): Born Oldham. The club's longest serving professional having made his debut in November 1982. Came through the youth ranks and has since played over 300 games in three divisions of the Football League.

STUART STORER (*midfield/forward*): Born Harborough. Joined Bolton in a £25,000 deal from Everton in January 1988, after a loan spell. Began his career with Mansfield Town before moving to Birmingham City and then on to Goodison Park.

GARY HENSHAW (*midfield*): Born Leeds. Moved to Burnden from his only other League club, Grimsby Town, in July 1987. He failed to command a regular place last term and spent some time out on loan with Rochdale.

ROBBIE SAVAGE (*midfield*): Born Liverpool. Missed most of last season through injury. First appeared in the Football League on a loan period with Wrexham from his first club, Liverpool. Since played with Stoke City, Bournemouth and Bradford City from whom he joined Bolton in September 1987.

PAUL COMSTIVE (*midfield*): Born Southport. Joined the Wanderers in September 1989 from Burnley after making 82 appearances for the Turf Moor club. Began with Blackburn Rovers and his other clubs include Rochdale (loan), Wigan Athletic and Wrexham.

SCOTT GREEN (*midfield*): Born Walsall. A £50,000 fee secured the 20-year-old from Derby County last March. He failed to appear in the first team at the Baseball Ground, but forced his way into the Bolton side in the latter stages of the campaign.

DAVID REEVES (*forward*): Born Birkenhead. A tribunal set his fee at £80,000 when he moved to the Wanderers from Sheffield Wednesday last summer. Joined Wednesday from non-league football and subsequently got his first taste of League football in loan spells with Scunthorpe and Burnley.

MARK SEAGRAVES (*defender*): Born Bootle. £100,000 signing from Manchester City in September. Can play either centre-half or full-back. Ex-Liverpool.

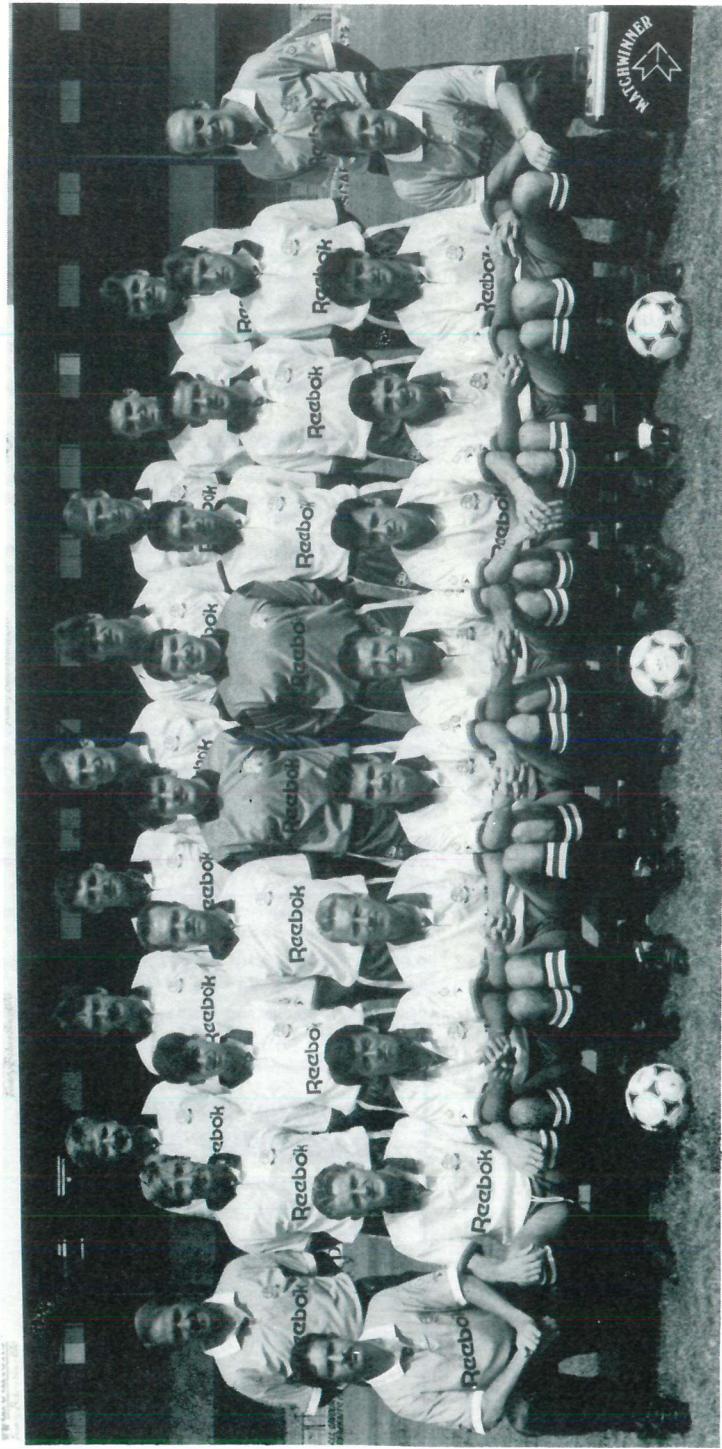
SAMMY LEE (*midfield*): Free transfer from Southampton. Former England international, and also played for Liverpool and Q.P.R.

MARK PATTERSON (*midfield*): Born Darwen. £65,000 signing from Bury. Formerly with Blackburn Rovers and Preston North End.

Other players in the first team squad include Alan Stubbs, Nicky Spooner, Gary Brown, Neil Fisher and Darren Oliver.

BOLTON WANDERERS GOALSCORERS THIS TERM

Tony Philliskirk	20	(5 pens.)
Julian Darby	8	
David Reeves	8	
Steve Thompson	6	(1 pen.)
Scott Green	5	
Stuart Storer	4	
Paul Comstive	3	
Alan Stubbs	1	
Opponents	1	
TOTAL	56	



BOLTON WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB 1990/91

Back row, left to right: Paul Hughes, Barry Cowdrill, Mark Came, Mark Winstanley, Paul Comstive, Alan Stubbs, Nicky Spooner, Robbie Savage.

Middle row: Phil Neal (manager), Julian Darby, Gary Henshaw, Dean Crombie (now Lincoln), David Feigate, Kevin Rose, Mike Jeffrey, Gary Brown, Neil Fisher, Mick Brown (coach).

Front row: Ewan Simpson (physio), David Reeves, Phil Brown, Tony Philliskirk, Stuart Storer, Steve Thompson, Darren Oliver, Darren Burke, David Thompson, Steve Carroll (youth team coach).

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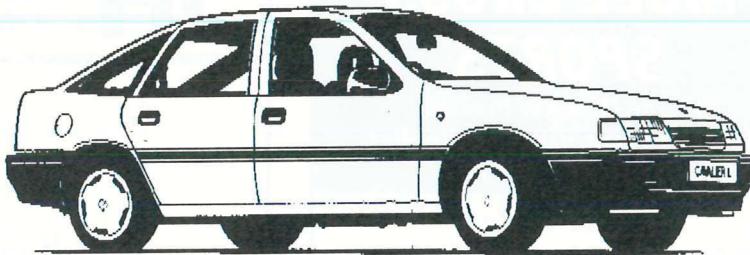
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FANFARE

with PETER BROWN

Good afternoon and welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Bolton Wanderers for today's Division Three fixture. Bolton are currently in fine form with an unbeaten run stretching back to October 6th, when they lost 1-0 to Stoke City.

With the bad weather postponements we have slipped a few points behind the promotion front runners, so today is an ideal opportunity to repress the balance. This is a real six pointer game, so make sure the vocal chords are in real good order to help to roar the team on to victory.

AWAY TRAVEL . . .

Next Saturday, 2nd March, we're off down the M4 to visit Fulham at Craven Cottage. Archie Lovell should have fond memories of Fulham as he scored the winner on his debut at Elm Park. Coaches leave Elm Park at 12 noon and the fare will be £5. Book up with Denny or Dave at the Social Club.

COUNTRY & WESTERN . . .

Our next Country & Western Evening will be on Sunday, 3rd March, 1991 at the Royals Rendezvous at 8.00pm. The artists appearing are Don Leather and Cindy, who are making their second appearance to the Rendezvous after a very successful first visit. We have decided to drop the admission charge to £4, by not having food. Tickets obtainable from Tom Bartholomew or from the Social Club.

PROGRAMMES . . .

Thanks to a very kind donation from long-standing supporter, Mr Gardner, the Club Shop now has a very good stock of Reading homes and aways dating back to the early sixties.

If you have any gaps in your collection, please see Richard, or any staff member in the Club Shop, who will check your wants list.

If any other supporter has any old programmes that they no longer require could they please contact Trevor Miles at the Club Shop.

REMARKABLE . . .

The crowd in excess of 7,000 that saw the Football Combination fixture of Arsenal v Reading, last Saturday, was probably the largest crowd ever to watch Reading Reserves. A crowd at Elm Park in 1967 of 6,000 saw Reading Reserves beat Bournemouth 1-0 to clinch the Division Two championship of the Combination. This was exceeded by the crowd at Highbury on Saturday, which was attended by a lot of Royals fans, myself included. I thought that the man of the match was undoubtedly Martin Hicks, nice to see him outshine the England centre-half!!

Let's hope that the next appearance for our first team at Highbury will be a Football League Division One fixture and the crowd is 37,000. 1993 would be a good year to achieve that ambition. Twenty wins from today till May would see us halfway along the road.

THANKS . . .

The Supporters' Club would like to wish commercial manager Tony Mundell good luck in the future, and express our thanks for all his co-operation and his good humour in his spell at Elm Park. Tony is returning to his old love of printing and will still be concerned with the programme production.

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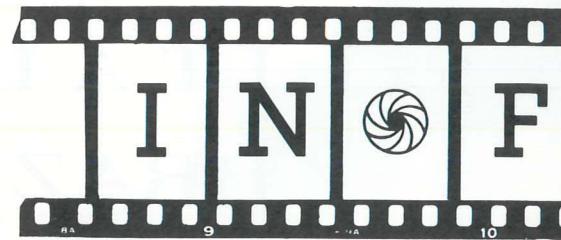
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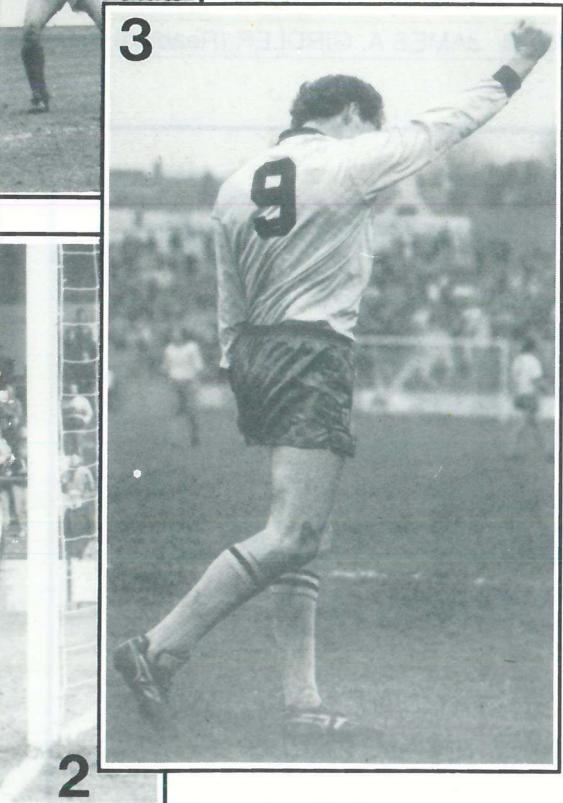


Elm Park photographer

JOHN HAWKEN

captures the action in the 3-1 victory over Wigan Athletic.

1. CRAIG MASKELL powers in a header to score Royals first goal.
2. This time CRAIG MASKELL just misses out.
3. TREVOR SENIOR celebrates after scoring his first of his two goals.



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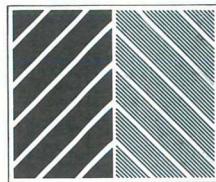
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SOCER Diary...

WEDNESDAY, 23rd JANUARY ...

Chelsea add to Spurs' mounting problems with a emphatic 3-0 Rumbelows Cup victory at White Hart Lane. Gazza is the man to hit the headlines once again after allegedly hitting Andy Townsend in the face. He escapes a sending off, but is told to cool it by his own skipper.

THURSDAY, 24th JANUARY ...

Loan signing Mark Smith opts to return to Nottingham Forest after a month on loan at Elm Park. He says it's a permanent move or nothing, and goes back to his wife and the City Ground third team. The Gazza saga rumbles on with his own skipper Gary Mabbatt admitting the England star was fortunate not to get sent off.

FRIDAY, 25th JANUARY, 1991 ...

Reading draft in teenager Stuart Lovell to replace the departed Mark Smith in the side to face Wigan Athletic in the hastily arranged fixture at Elm Park. Royals will be looking for their fifth successive victory and are otherwise unchanged. Things go from bad to worse at White Hart Lane as it is revealed their debts now top 20 million.

SATURDAY, 26th JANUARY ...

Royals make it five wins out of five with a 3-1 home victory over Wigan. Trevor Senior scores twice to take his tally to 13. In the FA Cup Shrewsbury Town produce the shock of the round with a 1-0 home victory over First Division Wimbledon. Liverpool also receive a fright as Brighton come back from 2-0 down to force a draw at Anfield.

SUNDAY, 27th JANUARY ...

Non-League Woking's Cup dream comes to an honourable end at Everton as they go down 1-0. Meanwhile Arsenal and Leeds battle out a goalless draw in front of the TV cameras at Highbury. In the fifth round draw holders Manchester United receive an away trip to Norwich. Shrewsbury are rewarded with a home tie against Leeds or Arsenal.

MONDAY, 28th JANUARY ...

Former Royal Stuart Beavon makes around £7,000 from his testimonial match as more than 1,400 fans watch Reading beat an Old Boys XI 7-1. Bev's side includes ex-Reading favourites Neil Webb, Keith Curle, Lawrie Sanchez and Billy Whitehurst. Meanwhile England manager Graham Taylor recalls Bryan Robson to the international fold for the match against Cameroon. Keith Curle, now at Wimbledon, also receives international recognition with a call up to the England B team.

TUESDAY, 29th JANUARY ...

Southampton beat Coventry at the second attempt to progress through to the fifth round of the FA Cup. The Sky Blues also reveal that they will accept offers for David Speedie. Oxford United put former Reading keeper Alan Judge on the transfer list following the arrival of Ken Veysey from Torquay for £110,000.

WEDNESDAY, 30th JANUARY ...

Leeds and Arsenal battle out another draw in their FA Cup marathon in a thriller at Elland Road. Meanwhile Notts Forest reach the fourth round after overcoming last year's finalists Crystal Palace by a 3-0 scoreline. Manager Brian Clough adds insult to injury for Palace by playing the last few minutes with ten men after withdrawing Steve Hodge, despite having played both substitutes.

FRIDAY, 1st FEBRUARY ...

Royals' five match winning run comes to a disappointing end at struggling Crewe who collect only their second home victory of the season with a 1-0 success. The goal comes after 32 minutes and despite laying siege to the home goal after the break, Royals fail to save a point.

SATURDAY, 2nd FEBRUARY ...

Leaders Arsenal see their 23 match unbeaten League run halted by London rivals Chelsea in a 2-1 defeat at Stamford Bridge. Stand-in striker Graham Stuart and Kerry Dixon score the all important goals. The result leaves the Gunners a point clear at the top, but Palace maintain the chase by winning 1-0 at Notts Forest.

SUNDAY, 3rd FEBRUARY ...

New signing David Speedie crowns his Liverpool debut by scoring the equaliser in a 1-1 draw against Manchester United in front of the TV cameras at Old Trafford. Main talking point is referee Ray Lewis's decision to only book Bruce Grobella when the Liverpool keeper deliberately handles the ball outside his penalty area.

MONDAY, 4th FEBRUARY ...

Neil Webb and Steve MacMahon pull out of the England squad for the midweek international against Cameroon, after picking up injuries in the Liverpool/Manchester United game. That looks certain to pave the way for Bryan Robson to return to the international fray.

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ELM PARK STATISTICS 1990-91 — ELM PARK STATISTICS 1990-91

Date	Opponents	F.A.	Crowd	Res.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Aug. 25	Exeter City	3-1	5,694	3	Francis	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Connory	Gooding	Seymour	Senior	Senior	Maskell	Moran	Leeworthy	(9)
Aug. 28	Oxford United (LC7.1)	0-1	5,254	—	Francis	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Connory	Gooding	Williams	Senior	Maskell	Moran	Leeworthy	Friel (8)	
Sept. 1	Preston North End	3-3	4,328	5	Francis	Knight	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Connory	Gooding	Friel	Senior	Maskell	Moran	Leeworthy	Gillies (8)	
Sept. 5	Oxford United (LC7.2)	1-2	4,328	—	Francis	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Connory	Gooding	Taylor	Senior	Maskell	Moran	Leeworthy	Leeworthy (2)	
Sept. 8	Bradford City	1-2	7,034	10	Francis	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Connory	Gooding	Taylor	Senior	Maskell	Moran	Seymour	Leeworthy (6)	
Sept. 15	Cambridge United	2-2	4,276	12	Francis	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Connory	Gooding	Friel	Senior	Maskell	Moran	Leeworthy	Taylor (6)	
Sept. 18	Crewe Alexandra	2-1	3,663	7	Francis	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Connory	Gooding	Fiel	Senior	Maskell	Moran	Leeworthy	Connery	
Sept. 22	Huddersfield Town	2-0	4,689	8	Burns	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Taylor	Gooding	Fiel	Senior	Maskell	Moran	Gillies (10)	Connery (6)	
Sept. 29	Rotherham United	2-0	4,058	5	Burns	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Connory	Gooding	Fiel	Senior	Maskell	Gillies (8)	Leeworthy	Maskell (11)	
Oct. 2	A.F.C. Bournemouth	2-1	5,300	3	Burns	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Connory	Gooding	Taylor	Senior	Maskell	Gillies	Leeworthy	Friel	
Oct. 6	Birmingham City	2-2	5,695	3	Burns	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Seymour	Connory	Gooding	Taylor	Senior	Maskell	Gillies	Leeworthy	Friel	
Oct. 13	Wigan Athletic	1-2	2,807	7	Burns	Streete	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Connory	Gooding	Seymour	Senior	Maskell	Gillies	Leeworthy	Seymour	
Oct. 20	Bury	1-2	6,562	9	Burns	Richardson	Gillies	McPherson	Hicks	Streete	Leworthy	Taylor	Senior	Maskell	Gillies	Leeworthy	Taylor (6)	
Oct. 23	Brentford	1-2	6,513	11	—	Seymour	Gillies	McPherson	Hicks	Streete	Leworthy	Taylor	Senior	Maskell	Gillies	Leeworthy	Connery	
Oct. 27	Leyton Orient	1-0	12,245	9	Burns	Jones	Gillies	McPherson	Hicks	Williams	Gooding	Taylor	Senior	Connory	Moran	Streete	Maskell (11)	
Nov. 3	Stoke City	1-3	4,648	14	Burns	Jones	Gillies	McPherson	Hicks	Williams	Gooding	Taylor	Senior	Connory	Moran	Taylor (9)	Maskell (10)	
Nov. 10	Bolton Wanderers	1-2	3,761	—	Francis	Jones	Gillies	McPherson	Hicks	Williams	Gooding	Taylor	Senior	Connory	Moran	Seymour	Connery	
Nov. 17	Coventry United (FAC7)	2-4	3,927	15	Francis	Jones	Gillies	McPherson	Streete	Williams	Gooding	Taylor	Senior	Connory	Moran	Leeworthy	Senior (5)	
Nov. 24	Southend United	1-3	2,159	—	Francis	Richardson	Gillies	McPherson	Hicks	Streete	Gooding	Williams	Senior	Connory	Moran	Taylor (6)	Connery	
Dec. 1	Fulham	1-0	4,073	11	Francis	Richardson	Gillies	McPherson	Hicks	Taylor	Gooding	Lovell	Senior	Connory	Moran	Seymour	Lovell (11)	
Dec. 7	Southend United (Daf-Prem)	1-4	4,472	—	Francis	Richardson	Gillies	McPherson	Hicks	Taylor	Gooding	Lovell	Senior	Connory	Moran	Friel	Connery (11)	
Dec. 14	Tranmere Rovers	0-0	4,691	11	Francis	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Taylor	Gooding	Lovell	Senior	Connory	Gillies	Leeworthy	Maskell	
Dec. 22	Swansea City	1-3	3,778	14	Francis	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Taylor	Gooding	Lovell	Senior	Connory	Gillies	Leeworthy	Maskell (10)	
Dec. 26	Grimsby Town	2-0	3,045	10	Francis	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Bailey	Gooding	Senior	Connory	Gillies	Taylor	Leeworthy	Connery	
Dec. 29	Manfield Town	2-1	4,100	9	Francis	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Bailey	Gooding	Smith	Senior	Connory	Gillies	Leeworthy	Connery	
Jan. 12	Preston North End	2-1	4,470	11	Francis	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Bailey	Gooding	Smith	Senior	Connory	Gillies	Leeworthy	Connery	
Jan. 19	Exeter City	1-0	5,123	8	Francis	Jones	Morrow	McPherson	Hicks	Bailey	Gooding	Smith	Senior	Connory	Gillies	Leeworthy	Connery	
Jan. 26	Wigan Athletic	3-1	3,416	7	Francis	Jones	Morrow	McPherson	Hicks	Bailey	Gooding	Smith	Senior	Connory	Gillies	Leeworthy	Friel	
Feb. 2	Crewe Alexandra	0-1	4,358	7	Francis	Jones	Morrow	McPherson	Hicks	Bailey	Gooding	Smith	Senior	Connory	Gillies	Leeworthy	Taylor	
Feb. 19	Southend United	2-1	4,568	8	Francis	Jones	Morrow	McPherson	Hicks	Bailey	Gooding	Smith	Senior	Connory	Gillies	Leeworthy	Connery (11)	
Mar. 23	Bolton Wanderers	5	Chester City	—	Francis	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Bailey	Gooding	Smith	Senior	Connory	Gillies	Leeworthy	Connery	
Mar. 26	Fulham	11	Stoke City	—	Francis	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Bailey	Gooding	Smith	Senior	Connory	Gillies	Leeworthy	Connery	
Mar. 29	Tranmere Rovers	12	A.F.C. Bournemouth	—	Francis	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Bailey	Gooding	Smith	Senior	Connory	Gillies	Leeworthy	Connery	
Mar. 30	Rotherham United	16	Grimsby Town	—	Francis	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Bailey	Gooding	Smith	Senior	Connory	Gillies	Leeworthy	Connery	
Apr. 1	Shrewsbury Town	23	Birmingham City	—	Francis	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Bailey	Gooding	Smith	Senior	Connory	Gillies	Leeworthy	Connery	
Apr. 27	Brentford	27	Walsall	—	Francis	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Bailey	Gooding	Smith	Senior	Connory	Gillies	Leeworthy	Connery	
May 4	Leeds United	30	Bradford City	—	Francis	Jones	Richardson	McPherson	Hicks	Bailey	Gooding	Smith	Senior	Connory	Gillies	Leeworthy	Connery	

BOLTON MATCH MASCOT

We welcome to Elm Park today Bolton Wanderers mascot Chris Edge. Chris is ten years old and a member of Bolton's Junior Whites Club and lives in Tilehurst.

KEY: F.A. — FA Cup, LC — Rumbelows Cup, DAF — Leyland DAF Cup. Figures in brackets after substitute indicates number of player replaced.

TO BE ARRANGED: Cambridge United (A) Shrewsbury Town (A).

READING APPEARANCES

1990/91

Lge	FA	LC	DAF	Gls	CAREER	
					Apps	Gls
24	1	2	2	2	MARTIN HICKS	556+1 26
19	—	2	2	—	STEVE RICHARDSON ...	361+4 2
24+1	1	2	2	13	TREVOR SENIOR	307+1 175
19+2	1	0+1	2	1	MICHAEL GILKES	193+22 27
16	1	2	2	—	STEVE FRANCIS	155 —
21	1	2	—	1	LINDEN JONES	142+5 11
11+1	1	2	1	8	STEVE MORAN	97+25 35
15+3	1	2	0+1	—	MIKE CONROY	62+18 7
25	—	2	2	4	MICK GOODING	57 6
1	—	—	—	—	KEITH KNIGHT	49+5 8
13+4	1	1	1+1	—	SCOTT TAYLOR	41+16 3
4	1	1	1	—	ADRIAN WILLIAMS	32+2 2
26	1	2	2	2	KEITH MCPHERSON	29 2
4+6	—	—	2	1	DAVID LEWORTHY	20+21 7
18+5	0+1	2	—	8	CRAIG MASKELL	20+6 8
10	—	—	—	—	PHIL BURNS	12 —
8+2	1	0+1	1	1	GEORGE FRIEL	11+4 1
7	—	—	—	1	DANNY BAILEY	7 1
6+5	—	—	1+1	2	STUART LOVELL	6+5 2
4	—	—	1	—	FLOYD STREETE	4 —
4	—	—	—	—	STEPHEN MORROW	4 —
4	—	—	—	—	CHRIS SEYMOUR	4 —
3	—	—	—	—	MARK SMITH	3 —

● Career Totals include League, FA Cup and League Cup. DAF Cup is not included in the Career Totals.

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION 3

	Home					Away					Pts	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	
Southend United	28	9	3	2	25	15.	8	1	5	20	19	55
Grimsby Town	29	10	2	2	31	10	6	4	5	14	14	54
Bolton W.	29	8	5	3	21	13	7	3	3	18	16	53
Cambridge United ...	25	7	2	4	24	19	6	5	1	20	10	46
Bury	29	9	2	3	25	16	4	5	6	17	21	46
Brentford	28	8	3	4	17	11	4	6	3	19	17	45
Tranmere Rovers	28	8	4	3	27	14	4	4	5	16	20	44
READING	26	7	3	3	24	19	6	1	6	16	15	43
Leyton Orient	26	11	1	2	25	10	2	3	7	9	18	43
Huddersfield Town	29	8	2	5	21	16	4	5	5	11	16	43
Birmingham City	30	3	7	4	12	16	7	5	4	18	18	42
Bradford City	28	7	1	7	21	19	4	6	3	14	13	40
Stoke City	27	5	5	4	24	18	5	4	4	12	13	39
AFC Bournemouth ..	27	8	5	1	25	13	2	4	7	10	23	39
Swansea City	25	6	4	1	21	9	4	1	9	12	23	35
Wigan Athletic	27	8	1	4	24	15	2	4	8	13	24	35
Exeter City	29	6	5	3	18	10	2	2	11	13	24	31
Chester City	25	4	2	5	11	12	4	3	7	15	19	29
Preston N.E.	28	5	4	5	15	19	2	3	9	15	25	28
Fulham	28	6	3	4	18	13	0	6	9	9	23	27
Crewe Alexandra	26	2	6	5	15	20	3	1	9	20	28	22
Shrewsbury Town	26	2	6	5	12	15	2	2	9	21	29	20
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Lord Justice Taylor in his Final Report into the Hillsborough Stadium Disaster.

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3

NEWSDESK

with **MARK GONNELLA**

Lou Macari has taken over as manager at troubled **BIRMINGHAM CITY** following the sacking of Dave Mackay. It marks the end of a year in the football wilderness for Macari since he admitted being involved in the Swindon betting scandal. After taking over Macari, who had been working as a scout for Sheffield Wednesday, said: "It's great to be back in the game full-time. Obviously this won't be an easy job here, but it is a challenge I am looking forward to. This club has enormous potential."

Meanwhile former Royal Colin Gordon is in the middle of a loan spell at Second Division Bristol Rovers from **BIRMINGHAM**. The striker has failed to win a regular spot in the first team at St Andrews and has already been loaned out at Hereford and Walsall this season.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED boss John Beck won the Third Division Manager of the Month award for January. His side has won nine League and Cup matches on the trot and are now genuine promotion candidates for the second season running.

CAMBRIDGE continue to raise eyebrows in the FA Cup. A magnificent 4-0 victory over Second Division Sheffield Wednesday put them into the quarter-finals for the second year running. They must now go to the winners of the fifth round tie between fellow Third Division club Shrewsbury and Arsenal. Meanwhile **CAMBRIDGE** have signed Fergus O'Donohue from Irish club Cork City. The striker was spotted by scouts and has moved to England for £36,000. And the club have released striker Gary Clayton for a month's loan with Fourth Division neighbours Peterborough United.

BURY midfielder Chris Withe, brother of Aston Villa coach Peter, has joined **MANSFIELD TOWN** on a month's loan. The 28-year-old recently lost his place in the Gigg Lane first team.

Former England U-21 international Paul Futcher is currently on a month's loan at **GRIMSBY TOWN** from Fourth Division Halifax. The 34-year-old defender has made nearly 600 League appearances with six clubs.

Former Royal Phil Stant has joined **FULHAM** for £65,000 from Second Division Notts County. The former soldier has been in the reserves at Meadow Lane this season after scoring six goals in 22 appearances last year following a £175,000 move from Hereford. Other ex-Royals on the move are Dean Crombie who has joined Lincoln from **BOLTON WANDERERS** and Nicky Platnauer has moved to Port Vale on loan from Notts County.

BRADFORD CITY have released midfielder David Campbell to Irish club Shamrock on a month's loan. The 25-year-old former Notts Forest and Charlton player has made less than 50 appearances at Valley Parade.

Managerless **ROTHERHAM UNITED** have recruited striker Tony Cullen from First Division Sunderland on a month's loan. The 21-year-old has made only 23 first team appearances for the Rokerites and is looking for a permanent move. They have also signed Dean Barrick from Sheffield Wednesday. The fee will be settled by tribunal. Meanwhile United collected the Barclays Performance of the Week award for their 2-1 win at fifth-placed **BRENTFORD**. A local boys' club will receive £650. It's the second week running that the award has gone to a team from the Third Division. The previous winners were **SHREWSBURY TOWN** for their FA Cup win over Wimbledon.

STOKE CITY boss Alan Ball is reported to have developed a novel way of blocking out the criticism from home fans — he stuffs his ears with cotton wool. Ball is under pressure following City's slide down the table, but gates at the Victoria Ground are still over 10,000.

Former England international Garry Birtles has been transfer listed by **GRIMSBY TOWN** at his own request. The 34-year-old former Notts Forest and Manchester United striker was voted Player of the Year last season, but has been out of the side since suffering an injury.

Gary Brooke, the former Spurs and Norwich midfielder, has joined non-league Colchester on loan from **BRENTFORD** where he was on trial after returning from Sweden.

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DOWN MEMORY LANE

with ALAN SEDUNARY

10 YEARS AGO — ACHILLES HEALE

A trip to promotion favourites Barnsley, on 21st February, 1981, looked a tough task for inconsistent Reading, but we turned on our best display of the season. After just six minutes some fancy footwork on the wing by Gary Heale gave him the space to set up Pat Earles to give us the lead. Just before half-time Jerry Williams sent Heale away again, but his shot was pushed on to the post. Fortunately Kerry Dixon was first to react and he knocked in the rebound. The second half proved much tougher and first Mick McCarthy, then Trevor Aylott scored to put Barnsley level at 2-2. Reading would have been justified in holding out for a draw, but we continued to press forward and with five minutes to go we got our reward. A Stuart Beavon corner caused havoc and eventually another heel, this one belonging to Mike Kearney, laid the ball off to Kerry Dixon to score our winner.

The joy of our win was soon soured when it was learned that former winger Alan Taylor had died at the age of 27 following a car crash. Steve Moran was on target for Southampton in their 2-2 draw at West Brom, but Bolton were not in action, their game against Oldham being postponed.

50 YEARS AGO — SHOTS SHOT DOWN

Over 22,000 fans were at Elm Park on 24th February, 1941, to see if Reading could beat Aldershot and so narrow the gap on the Division's leaders. We duly opened the scoring when Ron Blackman headed in a Maurice Edelstone cross — a typical Reading goal in the early fifties. Aldershot drew level through Raines, but just before half-time Ken Bainbridge restored our lead with a fierce shot. The second half was dominated by the Reading attack with Edelstone soon making it 3-1. Les Henley scored twice, then Blackman got his second before Peter Simpson rounded off the scoring to make the final score 7-1. No joy for Bolton though, they lost their First Division game at Portsmouth 2-1. In the fifth round of the Cup the eventual winners, Newcastle, were held to a goalless draw by Bristol Rovers.

65 YEARS AGO — BACK ON TOP

1925-26 season was a memorable one for both Reading and Bolton, although our home game against Newport on 20th February, 1926 was a real test of character. Weakened by international calls the previous week, when Evans and McConnell were playing for Wales and Ireland, we had crashed 5-2 at Merthyr, so a win over Newport was essential. Bill Tinsley scored twice in the first half but with the visitors pulling a goal back before the break it was to be a very long second half for the 10,334 fans present. We did hold on and the two points saw us move back to the top spot as leaders Bristol City lost at Brentford. During the week we made a crucial signing when Frank Richardson joined the club from Swindon and went on to score 12 goals in the remaining 13 games.

Bolton were on their way to Wembley for one of their three FA Cup triumphs in the Twenties, when they beat South Shields in the fifth round. The Bolton side included two future Reading managers — Joe Smith and Billy Butler.

TODAY'S THE DAY — 23rd FEBRUARY THROUGH THE YEARS.

23rd February has proved a good day for Reading through the years with our eight wins in ten games bringing us 32 goals. Strangely our biggest victory came in an away game, at Aldershot in 1946, when we won 7-2 with Tony MacPhee scoring four times. There were also nine goals in our only home defeat in the League on this date, when we lost 4-5 to Brighton. It was our first game for two months whereas Brighton's South Coast ground was one of the few in the country to keep open during the hard winter of 1963. That game also marked Roy Bentley's first game as our manager.

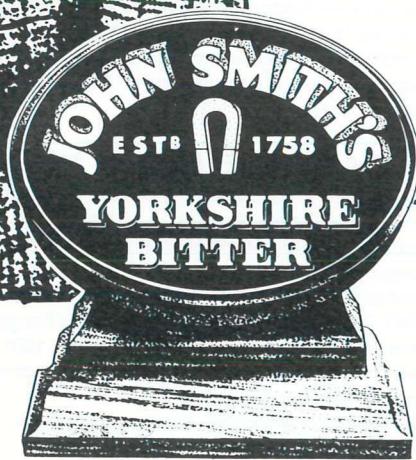
More recently we won 2-0 on 23rd February, 1983, against Ian Porterfield's Sheffield United, while our last away game on this day saw us win 3-0 at Bournemouth in 1985, our goals coming from Trevor Senior (2) and the late Dean Horrix.

The last action at Elm Park, before today's game, saw us lose 3-1 to Danish Cup holders Brondby IF in a friendly four years ago.

Finally 42 years ago today the club made one of its best signings when Johnny Brooks became a professional for us and later became the town's first England international.

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STEVE MORAN

Birthdate: 10/1/1961

Birthplace: Croydon

Height: 5ft 8ins

Position: Striker

Previous Clubs and Apps/Goals:

Southampton 180/78

Leicester City 43/14

Date Signed: October 1987

Transfer Fee: £250,000

Reading Appearances: 97+25

Reading Goals: 35

Following Ian Porterfield's arrival at Elm Park Steve has shown flashes of an form which once made him an England U-21 international. Unfortunately he has been plagued by injury this season after scoring seven goals in ten games early on. He became the Club's record signing when he moved from Leicester City when he moved from Leicester City and is a firm favourite with the South Bank.

ROYALS



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READING MATCHES AVAILABLE ON VIDEO

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1985/86 — Wealdstone (FA), Hereford (FA), Huddersfield (FA away), Huddersfield (FA), Bury (FA), Bury (FA away), Bury, York, Derby County, Bristol City (away), Doncaster Rovers.

1986/87 — Bristol Rovers, Shrewsbury, Aston Villa (LC), Grimsby, Blackburn, Aston Villa (LC away), Brighton, Ipswich, Birmingham, Arsenal (FA), Sunderland, Plymouth, Huddersfield, Crystal Palace, Hull City, Sheffield United, Bradford City, Portsmouth, Stoke, Derby, Chelsea (Mark White Test.)

1987/88 — Plymouth, Chelsea (LC), Huddersfield, Bradford City, Manchester City, Bradford City (LC), Bradford (LC away), Blackburn, Leeds, Swindon, Southampton (FA), Oxford United (SC), Shrewsbury, Notts Forest (SC), Bradford City (SC), Millwall, Middlesbrough, Coventry City (SC), Birmingham, Aston Villa.

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1989/90 — Bristol City (LC), Newcastle United (LC), Chester, Fulham, Mansfield, Birmingham, Bristol R (FA), Bristol City, Welling (FA), Welling (FA), Brentford, Newcastle (FA), Bolton W, Bristol R, Blackpool.

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ROYALS RAMPANT AS BEV BIDS A FINAL FAREWELL

READING 7, EX-READING ALL STARS 1



A FIERCE five-goal burst in just 15 second-half minutes gave Reading a landslide victory over the Ex-Reading All Stars at Elm Park.

Michael Gilkes claimed a hat-trick in only seven minutes as the star-studded All Stars collapsed in the closing stages.

But the *real* winner was former Royals favourite Stuart Beavon, who returned to his old stamping ground for the climax of his testimonial year.

Beavon, now riding high with Division 4 Northampton, assembled a side worth well over £2 million — and was rewarded with a crowd of almost 1,500 and a further £7,000-plus for his testimonial coffers.

"It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening," he said. "It was great that so many of my old Reading team-mates could turn up and that a good number of fans braved the cold weather as well.

"To finish my benefit on such a high note was really nice. Thanks to everyone for a tremendous year and a memorable night. It's something I'll never forget."

Royals took the lead after 12 minutes when Stuart Lovell controlled the ball neatly before crashing his shot past keeper Alan Judge. Three minutes later, Trevor Senior sidefooted home after Craig Maskell had intercepted a wayward Gary Peters backpass.

With Manchester United's Neil Webb and Wimbledon ace Lawrie Sanchez strolling and patrolling in midfield, the All Stars kept threatening to reduce the deficit — and eventually did so in the 66th minute.

Beavon brought many a memory flashing back as he torpedoed a wicked drive high into Phil Burns' net.

But the floodgates opened soon after with Gilkes (3), David Leworthy and Lovell concluding the night's entertainment.

Lovell's goal five minutes from time was a most bizarre effort. He slotted in the rebound after Beavon's attempt at a unique own goal — from the penalty spot! — was saved by keeper Danny Honey.

READING: Francis (Burns, 45min), Jones (Seymour, 52min), Williams (Rodgers, 55min), McPherson, Hicks (Conroy, 66min), Bailey, Gooding (Taylor, 66min), Lovell, Senior (Leworthy, 45min), Maskell (Friel, 45min), Gilkes.

EX-READING ALL STARS: Judge (Honey, 60min), Peters (D. Henderson, 72min), White, Sanchez, Kearney (Holzman, 60min), Curle, Beavon, Webb (Findlay, 72min), Whitehurst, Hetzke, Burvill.

Referee: Dennis Hedges (Oxford)

Attendance: 1,483.

by RUSSELL KEMPSON.

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